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SOURCE Borba.

LABOR SHORTAGE CAUSES BACKLOG  
IN LUMBER HAULING

**BOSNIA, SERBIA PROBLEM URGENT** -- Borba, No 108, 8 May 49

As a result of the large-scale wood-cutting campaign of the first quarter 1949, a backlog has developed in transporting logs from the forest to the nearest forest railroad or truck-loading point. The problem is particularly urgent in Bosnia and in Serbia, where most of the wood is beech. Beechwood left lying in the forest in warm weather deteriorates rapidly from high-quality timber to wood fit only for fuel. A delay of about 20 days after the wood is cut is the maximum.

Logs are hauled to the loading point almost exclusively by draft animals. Forest enterprises throughout Yugoslavia have a great many draft animals and require only about 10,000 more teams. There are many more teams than are needed in all of the republics, especially on farms. In Serbia, Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, there are now more than 10,000 teams that are not needed for the spring sowing.

There is also a shortage of drivers in lumber camps. Driving teams is the only lumbering operation that is not subject to norms. As a result, drivers' wages run much lower than those of many other forest workers. Consequently, the work is not attractive. In Serbia, some lumber camps have only half as many drivers as their quota calls for. The situation is little better in Croatia, and in Bosnia the shortage of drivers averaged 10 percent during April.

Norms should be introduced, and drivers should be informed of their advantage in respect to wages as well as efficiency. A driver who fulfilled the norm would receive 164 dinars for an 8-hour day, or 4,264 dinars for a month of 26 working days. If he worked 2 hours a day overtime caring for his animals, he would increase his income by more than 1,500 dinars per month. Thus, a driver would earn about 5,500 dinars per month, not counting bonuses for exceeding the norms or for exceptionally good care of his livestock.

More attention must be paid also to housing and supplying the drivers.

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REFORESTATION IN MACEDONIA -- Borba, No 107, 7 May 49

The spring reforestation plan for Macedonia has been exceeded. Forests and scrub land destroyed during or before the war have been replanted. In some srez, including Kicevo, Brod, and Bitolj, forests were watered artificially during the hottest spells of last summer, and this will be done in almost all the srez of Macedonia this year.

In Kicevo Srez, for example, 267,200 poplars have been planted instead of the 60,000 called for in the plan; in Kavadar Srez, 310,000 instead of 120,000; in Bor Srez, 202,000 instead of 80,000; and in Bitolj Srez, 318,420 instead of 200,000. The plan for planting poplars in Macedonia has been exceeded by 22 percent, while the plan for all kinds of trees has been exceeded by 17 percent.

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